

# PATENT

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DU PETROLE

## SOUR NATURAL GAS TREATING METHOD

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### ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for treating a natural gas, saturated or not with water, containing essentially hydrocarbons, a substantial amount of hydrogen sulfide and possibly carbon dioxide. The method of the invention comprises a condensation stage intended to condense a major part of the water, a distillation stage wherein a gaseous effluent depleted in hydrogen sulfide and substantially free of water is recovered, and a contacting stage wherein the gaseous effluent from the previous stage is contacted with a solvent so as to obtain a treated gas substantially free of hydrogen sulfide and possibly of carbon dioxide.